

Alameda County Taxpayers Association, Inc.

893-3341 1404 FRANKLIN STREET, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 94612

Incorporated
June 17, 1938

INFORMATION COPY TO ALL MEMBERS

June 8, 1976

OFFICERS:

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ANDREW W. BIGGS
1st Vice President
CLIFFORD H. MEESE
2nd Vice President
RALPH H. CROSS, JR.
Treasurer
JAMES R. GARRETT
Executive Vice President

Alameda County Board of Supervisors
County Administration Building
1221 Oak Street
Oakland, CA 94612

DIRECTORS:

Alameda Area
JOHN A. TOMPKINS
Paceco Div. of Fruehauf
Albany-Berkeley Area
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Caral, Inc.
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Cutter Laboratories, Inc.
NEWELL T. PARTCH
Up-Right Scaffolds
Fremont-Newark-Union City Area
ANDREW W. BIGGS
GM Assembly Division
LARRY E. BURKHART
Peterbilt Motors Co.
JOSEPH W. GOODMAN
CT Supply Company
RAY D. HILL
Chicago Bridge & Iron Co.
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Leslie Salt Co.
Livermore-Pleasanton Area
EARL DUARTE
Wells Fargo Bank
WILLIAM B. MANIS
Bank of America
GRAHAM NISSEN
Rancher
Oakland-Emerlyville-Piedmont Area
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Attorney
PAUL C. CHILDS
Earle M. Jorgensen Co.
RALPH H. CROSS, JR.
Attorney
JAMES W. DIETERICH, JR.
Clearprint Paper Co.
JOHN P. ENGSTROM
American Brass & Copper Co.
CHARLES C. KEHRLEIN
Home-Owner
ROBERT N. MacNEUR
Grant Miller Mortuaries
EDOUARD B. McKNIGHT
Apartment House Owner
PAUL E. ROBERTS
Great Western Savings and Loan Assn.
DAVID N. SALTER
Grubb and Ellis Co., Inc.
San Leandro-Hayward Area
WILLIAM F. BAER
Caterpillar Tractor Co.
SIDNEY L. FEENER, JR.
Maxwell House Div./Gen. Foods
JACOB SCHANHALLS
Hunt-Wesson Foods, Inc.
At Large-Alameda County
RAYMOND M. DANOW
Fibreboard Corporation
W. J. LOGAN, JR.
Kaiser Center, Inc.
CLIFFORD H. MEESE
Pacific Telephone Co.
AL ZAVATERO
Pacific Gas & Electric Co.

Attention: Mr. Fred F. Cooper, Chairman

Gentlemen:

The Alameda County Taxpayers Association is here today to present its preliminary comments on the proposed budget for 1976-77 for Alameda County. It is our sincere hope that you will bear these comments in mind during the next few weeks as you consider the \$407 million of spending requests before you.

During the past three years in Alameda County, while the Consumer Price Index rose at an average rate of 9 1/2%, the tax levys imposed by your Board increased at an average rate of 12 1/2%. In the meantime, Alameda County's population remained the same. This year, when another massive increase in assessed valuation is expected, we ask your Board for a "real" tax reduction.

As is our custom, ACTA's Alameda County Committee, Directors and staff have spent considerable time studying this proposed budget. The summary of our preliminary recommendations follows:

1. The proposed budget calls for a County staff increase of a NET of 27 positions. We ask you to consider the total decreases and total proposed increases in staff and to insist that there be no actual increases.
2. We ask that all twenty POINTS OF ISSUE be denied by your Board. As with many other budget proposals, these all fall into the category of "nice to have" as proposed by persons who do not concern themselves about "who will pay?"
3. We question the size of the planned Reserves. Reserves are also nice to have, and being had, are usually spent. If only 1.2% were spent this year, we recommend 2% as adequate, instead of the 3% proposed. This \$5 million reduction should be passed on to the taxpayer.
4. Program Evaluation: Last year saw the start of this activity with the Director and one secretary added at a cost of \$41,160. During the year assistants were hired and the budget rose to \$86,800. Now a budget of \$335,569 is proposed and we must object. Before proceeding further, ACTA feels your Board must publish an evaluation of this function, showing the total dollar savings generated, the work that has been accomplished and a justification for removal of this administrative analysis from the County Administrator's office.
5. Advertising: Because the Bicentennial celebrations will culminate several days after this new budget is effective, ACTA recommends the \$74,445 for the Bicentennial Commission be deleted and that the agreed reductions for the Chambers proceed.
6. Revenue Sharing: ACTA recommends not only the continuation of the previous \$6,100,000 allocation toward priority expenditures to alleviate other sources, such as property tax, but further asks the Board to increase this amount at least proportionate with increases in tax levy.
7. District Attorney staffing ratio: ACTA will comment on this in our closing report at the end of your Board's public hearings on budget.



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Alameda County
Board of Supervisors

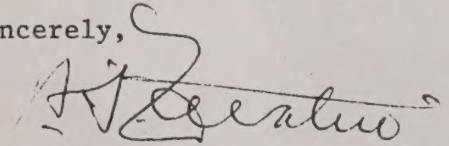
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8. Work Furlough Program: This is an example. Salaries alone increase 14%. Increases for salaries and benefits comprise 70% of the program increases. As a case in point, here and in other instances, ACTA strongly feels that when a program is initiated through a Federal, State or other grant, whenever that source of funds stops, the program should then be stopped. Its possible continuance should be only as a newly considered program and not a hidden carryover with mid-year commitments and employments.
9. Field Services - Structural Fire Fund: ACTA recommends that, if the Structural Fire tax is not adequate to finance this budget unit, a separate service district be formed to include the involved properties and finance their care.
10. Welfare Pilot Employment Program: ACTA comment reserved until later.
11. Primary Care Services - Central District Health Facility: The budget message does not include the \$7,150 for new laboratory equipment to implement the Primary Services, which brings Primary Services to \$150,000. ACTA recommends Alameda County not enter this further phase of socialized medicine, but void the program.
12. Mental Health Services: As per Message, page 70, ACTA recommends your Board direct your staff to make program reductions to stay within normal resources.
13. Alcohol and Drug Abuse: As in No. 12 above, ACTA recommends your Board direct staff to reduce program and stay within normal resources.
14. Emergency Medical Services Administration: As above, ACTA recommends the cessation of any program or elements initiated under a grant, whenever that grant ceases.
15. Payment of Uncollected Ambulance Bills: ACTA feels there is no logical basis for such an assumption of uncollected ambulance bills which would no doubt reach \$750,000 by next year. We recommend your Board deny this giveaway proposal.
16. County Library Tax Increase: ACTA recalls that the County Library insisted on special services in last year's budget, which we recommended against. Without these there would be no problem this year. This can only accrue more such problems next year. ACTA recommends your Board deny any increase.

These preliminary recommendations alone total over \$8.5 million, which could be used to contribute meaningful tax reductions. ACTA will continue to study this budget and departmental proposals as they are reviewed, in order to make final recommendations to your Board June 17.

Sincerely,


A. J. Zavatero,
President

AJZ/JRG:jw